

Regular Features

LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Rumble strips help prevent accidents

I am writing in response to "Getting in the groove," (*Hanford Reach*, March 3) concerning the placement of rumble strips at the barricades. As a Hanford Patrol officer, I'd like to provide some insight on the effectiveness of these traffic safety devices.

The rumble strips are very effective in slowing down traffic as commuters approach the barricades for badge inspection. The rumblestrips alert the driver with a mild tire rumble as his or her car passes over the strips.

The vast majority of drivers at Hanford are very responsible and attentive to the operation of their vehicles. However, there are a few who drive distracted and the rumble strips assist in alerting these drivers to the approaching checkpoint. Routinely, there are drivers who speed up to the barricade with a coffee cup and cigarette in one hand, a cell phone in the other and the car radio blasting, and they try to show the patrolman a badge. To this situation, sometimes add bright morning sunshine from the east, fog, darkness, rain or snow.

One might think: How could a driver not see the many lights, signs, reflectors and vested Patrol officers? But a number of drivers in the past years have run into the barricades. One vehicle rammed through all the crash barriers at the Yakima Barricade. It didn't stop until it hit the telephone poles in the last row of sand-filled barriers! The flying sand and rocks peppered and broke one of the bullet-resistant windows in the barricade. Had the rumble strips been in place, I doubt this accident would have occurred.

I am not aware of any collisions with the barricade since the installation of rumble strips. The State of Washington has installed rumble strips along a number of interstate highways. This traffic-safety device has prevented untold numbers of accidents.

I'm thankful we have the rumble strips as an added safety measure in our Hanford safety program.

Attentive drivers will quickly discover that, the

slower one drives over the rumble strips, the less of an irritant they will be.

Robert Himrod
Fluor Hanford

Quit grumbling about the rumbling

In regard to the letters to the *Hanford Reach* complaining about the rumble strips ("Getting in the groove," March 3, and "Commute is tough on cars," March 10), I would like to say, stop whining!

I don't recall that the Department of Energy, Rockwell, Fluor or anybody else twisted my arm to take a job on site, regardless of the drive. I'll bet that the majority of our co-workers who were recently laid off or who soon may be laid off would jump at the opportunity to drive out here again, whatever the roads are like!

Perhaps Mr. Keck, or anybody else for that matter, would like to take a job at one of the local McDonald's and bypass the rumble strips. Just think of all the money that would be saved in both fuel and maintenance.

Don't sweat the small stuff!

Kevin Miller
Fluor Hanford

A knee-jerk fix

While any accident is certainly unfortunate, and I have absolutely no intention of belittling anyone who was involved, the photo ("Slow Down!") and caption in the March 10 issue of the *Hanford Reach* about a 5-mile-per-hour speed limit seems to be a typical knee-jerk reaction that takes place all across the site.

I have absolutely no knowledge of the accident and I do not intend to place blame on anyone, but couldn't a better sign be used in the parking lot to warn drivers that there are pedestrians about, and likewise to warn pedestrians that there are vehicles being driven in the area?

In speaking with the Benton County Sheriffs Office, a 5-mph speed limit in a parking lot is not enforceable. While I would not promote reckless driving, or any other such activity, I think that instead of looking for a "quick fix" we should expend our efforts on determining the actual root cause of an event and fix that cause,

Letters continued on next page.

Regular Features



LETTERS continued

not just treat the symptoms. This would apply to any happening, not only here at work, but also at home.

Again, I am not interested in upsetting anyone involved in the accident; I would just like to point out that this is an example of how problems seem to get “fixed” lately at Hanford.

Tom Kimmel
Fluor Hanford

Would like to save energy at home, too

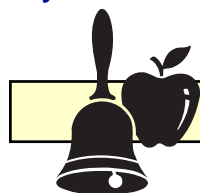
In the March 3 issue of the *Hanford Reach* there was an article (“Saving Power,”) about the WattStopper™ power strip. Also see “Energy-saving power strips available on site at no cost,” Feb. 10).

I put one in my office and I like it so much that I would like to put one in my home too, but I have not been able to find a store in the Tri-Cities that carries them.

Could you, or somebody I could contact, help me?

Philippe Bosquet
Numatec Hanford Corporation

Editors’ note: Wattstopper products can be purchased online at <http://www.wattstopper.com/products/buynowlist.html>.



C L A S S E S

PROTRAIN offers the following software classes:

- **Network Security Administration** — March 17-21
- **Primavera Project Planning**
 - P-3 601 — March 24-26
 - P-3 602 — March 27
 - P-3 603 — March 28
- **Microsoft Access 2000**
 - Level 1 — March 17
 - Level 2 — March 18
 - Level 3 — March 19

Office XP classes are now available. For more information call 375-0414.

HAMMER sponsors RCRA seminar

The Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center will sponsor a three-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act seminar from McCoy and Associates on March 18, 19 and 20 at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. Registration will be limited to the first 200 participants. Site personnel may register for the seminar with their training schedulers or through PeopleSoft. The cost is \$550. Course agenda or additional information may be obtained by contacting your training scheduler or Don Brock via e-mail.

Spelling seminar offered by Skills Lab on March 20

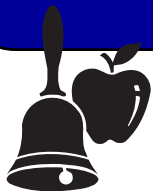
A Spelling Seminar will be presented Thursday, March 20, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Administration Building of the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. There is no charge for this service, but only a few seats remain, so reserve space immediately by calling 376-3250. You’ll conquer “the Terrible Ten”— the 10 most commonly misspelled words — and learn key rules for spelling over 4,000 other words correctly. You’ll clarify commonly confused words and learn memory tips and strategies. Columbia Basin College faculty from the Skills Enhancement Lab will present the session. Following the seminar, the Skills Lab staff will host an informal open house for those interested in learning more about Skills Lab services. For more information or to sign up for the Spelling Seminar, call Kathy Dechter at 376-3250.

PNNL offers speech and presentation workshop

The workshop, “Say what? How to Deliver Effective Speeches and Presentations,” will be offered by the Scientific and Technical Information Department at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on March 20-21, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. in the Columbia River Room of ETB. Pam Novak, Cheryl Spears, Mary Frances Lembo and Michaela Mann are the instructors. If you want to equip yourself with the skills to simultaneously be in command of yourself, in touch with your audience, on top of your material and in sync

Classes continued on next page.

Regular Features



CLASSES continued

with your visual and verbal aids, you are invited to attend. Register early; class size is limited to 20 participants. The cost is \$425. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at cory.rhoads@pnl.gov or at 376-7157. For more information, contact Mary Wagner at mary.wagner@pnl.gov or at 372-4259, or visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov>.

Course on ASME B31.3 Process Piping presented

The Columbia Basin Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will present the professional development course, ASME B31.3 Process Piping, March 24-27 at Washington State University Tri-Cities. The instructor is Glynn Woods, and the cost is \$1,395 for ASME members and \$1,545 for nonmembers. This course demonstrates how the B31.3 Code has been correctly and incorrectly applied through examples shown by the instructor. To register, contact Matt Robinson at 371-5858 or at matt@asme.org. For more information, visit http://www.asme.org/sections/cb/B31_3course.html.

MicroShield course offered May 6-8

Project Enhancement Corporation will conduct a MicroShield course, all-inclusive level, at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center May 6-8. MicroShield is used for analysis involving gamma and X-ray radiation. The software has been applied to problems involving shielding design, waste calculations, decontamination effectiveness, source inference, ALARA decisions and many other situations where exposure of personnel or equipment is to be analyzed. The cost is \$1,050 per participant. The course offers 10 continuing education credits for certified health physicists in the recertification program. To register or for more information, contact Yvonne Miller at (240) 686-3059 or at ymiller@pec1.net. ♦

CALENDAR



AQP/ASQ scholarship applications available

Applications for the local chapters of the Association for Quality and Participation (AQP) and American Society for Quality (ASQ) \$1,000 scholarship are being accepted now through April 15. The scholarship will be awarded to a college-bound high school senior pursuing a career in a field related to quality and participation. Applicants must be seniors, graduating from high school in Benton or Franklin County, with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher and a combined SAT score greater than 1,000. The application process includes a written essay as well as submittal of two letters of recommendation. For more information, check the AQP Web site at http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQP_ASQscholarship.html.

SHRM meets March 20

The Society of Human Resource Management will hold its dinner meeting on March 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Coco Loco, 2588 N. Columbia Center Blvd. in Richland. Candice Bluechel, business services coordinator for Columbia Basin WorkSource will be the featured speaker. The cost is \$13.50 per person. To make your reservation, visit www.columbiabasinshrm.com and click on Chapter Meetings, or send an e-mail message to tracie_lorenzen@rl.gov.

Procurement integrity and ethics seminar scheduled

The Columbia Basin Chapter of the National Contract Management Association is sponsoring a Procurement Integrity and Ethics Seminar on March 20, 8 to 11 a.m. at the Richland Red Lion. Toni Martin and Alan Rither will present this seminar. The seminar will cover the laws, rules and regulations that you must know, as well as how to best represent your organization during the acquisition process. Participants will walk away with the tools necessary to keep their organization in compliance with their contracts. The seminar is offered to NCMA members for \$85 and nonmembers for \$100 and includes NCMA's regular lunch meeting at 11:30 with an additional presentation by Martin and Rither. Call 946-5058 or send an e-mail message to Creynolds@pec1.net for registration information.

Calendar continued on next page.



Regular Features

CALENDAR continued

Hanford Technical Library demonstration set

The Hanford Technical Library staff will demonstrate the use of environmental resources databases Thursday, March 20, 12 to 1 p.m. in room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center on the campus of Washington State University Tri-Cities in Richland. Learn what online databases are available to you at no cost, what e-journals can be accessed through the Hanford Technical Library's home page and how to browse library stacks from the office desktop. For more information, contact Yung Harbison at 372-7453 or at yung.harbison@pnl.gov.

March 22 dance to raise funds to mentor students

The Richland Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is sponsoring an Oldies But Goodies Dance on March 22 from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Richland Knights of Columbus Hall, 2500 Chester Rd. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Proceeds from this event will support educational and tutorial programs to prepare middle-school students for high school and college. For more information call Bertrand Griffin II at 545-1949 or Russell Flye at 372-1941.

Donate blood March 25

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at 2261 Stevens Drive for a blood drive on March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment to give blood, contact Kelly Layfield at 376-6785.

City University holds open house March 27

City University will hold an open house on Thursday, March 27, 5-7 p.m. The open house is an opportunity for current and prospective students to meet with department representatives and faculty and to learn about the various services available at City University. The address is 303 Bradley Blvd., Suite 202, Richland. The City University campus is located at the north end of the golf course at Comstock and George Washington Way. Call 943-9887 for more information.

Conference for office professionals scheduled

Registration is open now through April 8 for the 17th

Annual Hanford Office Professionals Training and Development Conference, April 15-16 at the Royal Hotel (formally the Tower Inn) on George Washington Way in Richland. The two-day conference has identical programs each day to allow flexibility in scheduling companies and participants. "Learning Curve for a Lifetime" is the conference theme. JoAnne Nai-che of nai-che & associates, inc., will provide the morning motivation; Scott Lerch of Microsoft will discuss smart living in the digital decade; Kathy Dechter will punch up your punctuation; and Barry Weaver of the U.S. Department of Energy will "Lighten up" the afternoon. The conference can accommodate up to 200 participants each day. Limited seating is available for each company, so register early. For more information, visit the Web site at www.hanford.gov/misc_info/professional/index.html. The conference is hosted by Fluor Federal Services and Eberline Services Hanford, Inc.

Fish-tagging crew wanted at Hanford town site

A crew of four to six people (over age 16) is needed for up to 12 days starting approximately May 12 to assist the Yakama Indian Nation in tagging 200,000 juvenile wild fall chinook salmon at the old Hanford town site at Hanford. No prior experience is necessary. Wages are \$9.50 per hour. Weekend work may be required. For further information, please contact the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at (503) 238-3566 or via e-mail at tagfish@critfc.org.

May 10 golf tournament to benefit Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts Mid-Columbia Council is holding the Fourth Annual Girl Scout Golf Classic Tournament on May 10 at the Tri-City Country Club in Kennewick. The Girl Scouts Mid-Columbia Council supports programs for girls — camps, sports activities, cultural and science and engineering events — in more than 14 counties in Washington and northern Oregon, including the Tri Cities.

The shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Entry fees are \$100 per player, \$400 per foursome. Prizes will be awarded. A silent auction will be held. For more information, call the council office at 783-7721. ♦

Features continued on next page.

Regular Features



H.anford **E**.mployee **R**.ecreation **O**.rganization

GENERAL INFO & ACTIVITIES

MAIL YOUR TICKET REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE LISTED TICKET SELLER

— It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day. Do not combine the charge for tickets to two different events on the same check. If you do, it will be returned.

HRA DISCOUNTS — Log on to <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hrd/> to see the updated discounts list.

HERO POLICY FOR NSF CHECKS — Associated non-sufficient fund bank fees will be passed on to check issuers. HERO will not absorb the cost.

POSITIONS ON THE HERO BOARD — The following positions on the HERO Board are vacant: 100 Area representative, Richland area representative and discount coordinator. If you would like to apply and have your manager's consent, send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha.

SKI BLUEWOOD — Lift ticket vouchers are \$27 for adults, \$23 for students (with valid ASB card), \$20 for children (in first through eighth grade) and seniors (65 years and older). These prices reflect a \$3 discount. Send your check payable HERO to Tricia Poland (T5-04).

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS — Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are \$5 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are \$5.50 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are \$5 each with no restrictions. Regal and Carmike tickets are valid in Seattle and Spokane as well as the Tri-Cities. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks (no cash) made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Ginny Wallace (S7-03), Marta Cabellero (S5-14) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). Sunnyside Movie Theater is now offering tickets for two admissions for one show, for \$9.50 with no show restrictions. These tickets are also good for Ellensburg and Walla Walla. For Yakima Mercy or Sunnyside tickets, send checks (no cash) to Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Jim Hopfinger (S7-39) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

YAKIMA CHRISTMAS PARTY? — Your Yakima HERO representative is looking for your input in our efforts to re-establish the Yakima Christmas Party for 2003. Contact Jim Hopfinger with your ideas and support. Send an e-mail message to Jim or phone him at 376-1499.

UPCOMING TRIPS

HERO'S FIRST ANNUAL TRAVEL NIGHT — If you are interested in any of the trips HERO is hosting this year, come to the Richland Library after work on March 21. HERO representatives will be there from 4 to 6 p.m. with refreshments, door prizes and a short presentation on some of the trips. Trip hosts will be available to answer questions and distribute brochures. If you plan to attend, send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha and let her know what trips are of interest to you, as a headcount is needed.

• **Canadian Rockies Train Tour** — May 9-17. The price is \$2,199 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 14 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. Payment is due as soon as possible. Fly to Vancouver, British Columbia, and explore the beautiful Canadian Rockies by train. Visit Kamloops, Jasper, Ice Fields Parkway, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Visit <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm> for more information or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail.

• **New Orleans Getaway** — May 19-23. \$1,099 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and six meals during this five-day getaway to the "Jazz Capital of the World." A deposit of \$160 per person will reserve your spot. Contact Linda Meigs for details.

• **French Riviera** — Oct. 6-15. The price is \$2,284 pp for twin, \$2,254 pp for triple and \$2,584 for single. A deposit of \$430 is due March 21 to hold your space, and the balance is due July 23. Credit cards are accepted. Tour the French Riviera, Italian Riviera, Monaco, St. Tropez, Cannes, Grasse and Nice. We will fly round-trip from Pasco. We only have to unpack once as we will be staying in Nice and taking day trips to all the other exciting places. There will be free time also to do your own exploring. Included are seven breakfasts and five dinners. Start saving now for an exciting adventure. E-mail Nancie Simon or call 373-2587 for more information.

• **Disney World/Disney Cruise** — Oct. 19-26. The price ranges from \$1,302 to \$1,852 ppdo, depending on the type of room you want. The price includes round-trip airfare from Pasco, four days in Walt Disney World with entrance into all the parks, a three-day cruise to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay (Disney's private island), taxes and transfers. Don't wait to send in a \$250 per person deposit to hold your spot. Contact Jim Hopfinger for more information.

H.E.R.O. continued on next page.



Regular Features

H.E.R.O. continued

• **Reflections of Italy** — Departure date is Nov. 3. \$2,782 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and 13 meals during this 10-day journey to Italy, beginning in Rome, "the Eternal City." A deposit of \$430 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due Sept. 4. Contact Linda Meigs for details.

• **Switzerland** — Nov. 3-11. The price is \$1,879 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 11 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A \$250 deposit is due May 3 and the balance is due Sept. 4. The medieval city of Bern is our host city. Highlights of the tour include the Swiss Parliament, the famous Bear Pit, the Rose Gardens, Lake Geneva and the medieval Castle of Chillon. Enjoy breathtaking Alpine views with a ride on the Panoramic Express Train to Gstaad. Then on to Interlaken, Grindewald, Zurich, Burgdorf Castle, Lucerne and an optional tour to Germany and the mystical Black Forest. Visit <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm> or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail for more information. ♦



VAN POOLS

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submission is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring their passengers are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her security badge, access is denied at the barricade. The individual is required to go to a badging station for a temporary badge or go home to retrieve the badge. For more information visit the Safeguards and Security Web page at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas>.

BENTON CITY

Rider wanted for 8x9s vanpool from Benton City to 200W. Contact **Charlotte Burruss** by e-mail or at 373-4046. 3/10

KENNEWICK

Riders needed for Van No. 146. The van starts at Chuck E. Cheese, stops at the Federal Building and goes to 2750, 2719-EA, WESF, MO-434 and 2704-HV. Call **Barb** at 373-2006 or **Bobbie** at 372-0031. 3/10

PASCO

Van No. 213 out of Pasco needs riders. Leaves Desert Ice, across from the Broadmoor Mall off of Road 100, at 6:10 a.m. Drops off at 2750-E and at 2704-HV (and any place along the way). Backup drivers welcome, but not necessary. Evening pickup in reverse order. Van arrives back at Desert Ice at approximately 5:20 p.m. E-mail **Doug Bailey** at douglas_m_bailey@rl.gov. 3/10

RICHLAND

Vanpool No. 183 from Richland Wye to 100K is seeking riders and backup drivers, 8x9, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Leaves the Richland Wye Park 'n Ride and makes one stop at the West Richland Bypass Highway exit. Drops off at 100K central parking lot by MO-500. Contact **Amy Hay** at 373-9962, or at 528-0477 (cell phone). 3/17

Megavan No. 181 to 100K has openings. Picks up at the Ben Franklin Transit lot on Columbia Drive in Richland and the former Hanford bus lot. Drops off at MO-293, MO-500, and MO-401 at 100K. The best ride in the fleet to and from work. Contact **Ginger Petaschnick** at 372-2820. 3/17

Van No. 117 has spacious seating for 200W Area 8x9 riders. The van travels from the parking north of Densow's Drugstore at 1019 Wright in Richland at 6 a.m., and returns about 5 p.m. Stops at locations around the old Pow-erhouse and West Tank Farms. E-mail or call **Gary Bush** at 372-2531. 3/10

Vanpool No. 114 has an opening for a rider to PFP. The van leaves the 1200 block of Birch Avenue in Richland at approximately 6:10 a.m., picks up along Wright Avenue. The final pickup is at Desert Rock Fellowship on Jadwin Avenue. Interested Individuals may contact **John Faulkner** at 373-2286 or **Gary Anderson** at 373-1304. 3/10

WEST RICHLAND

Van No. 120 on 8x9s is looking for two riders. Van leaves at 6:10 a.m. from Flat Top Park for the following locations: 272-AW, MO-273, 2750, 272-B and 2727-E. Contact **Glenn Garman** at 372-0054 or **Curt Hedger** at 373-7935. Sit back and enjoy the ride and keep your gas bill down. 3/17 ♦



The Horn Rapids golf league will run Tuesday nights from April 15 to July 29 with playoffs on Aug. 5 at the Horn Rapids Golf Course. Some tee times are still open for complete teams. Individual players are welcome. League greens fees are \$14 for 9 holes, which includes \$3 for the player prize fund. Carts and range balls are also available in the pro shop. Tee prizes are awarded each week for both 9's. The league uses stroke play format with league handicaps maintained for the players. Final league standings are based on team results. The league will also have a preseason starting on March 25 for all players who wish to participate to "find their games" and establish handicaps. Interested players and teams should contact Fred Jensen at 373-2447 or 376-4479 or at Frederick_A_Jensen@rl.gov or Fred.Jensen@mactec.com. ♦